

Co B 1-140th Feb 2004 Newsletter

Commander's Comments

Feb 6-8. **MUTA 6 Formation Fri 0900hrs**
Cdr's call for leaders 0830-0900.
If late, call (562)795-2457 or 2448
No SUTA's. Weapon qualifying weekend.

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| 1 | Driver & vehicle load up coordinator is SFC Velasquez, contact him by Feb 4 1500hrs. He departs Feb 5 0700. Their TA-50 draw by appt. |
| 2 | 0900-1000: Enlisted classes such as NCODP, CTT, & NCM, this is your opportunity to get it done HS or do it at CR. All classes shall be done! |
| 3 | 9mm PMI will be done by SGT Shaw either on Fri 1230 Bldg 913 or at Camp Roberts 1100-1130 |
| 4 | As of Dark Night, we're done to one range between M-16 and 9MM, everybody will qualify |
| 5 | One UH-60 crew to return home Sat for a Sun AM mission ferrying 13 LA Sheriffs to Catalina Island. |
| 6 | M/U APFT due on Shaw, Pruitt, Solee, Taylor, & Stever. Remedial PT/Make is Platoon Leadership's responsibility. |
| 7 | NTC dates are Feb 21-Mar 5 and it's still voluntary. Billeting s/b secured. 2LT Taylor is the POC at 795-1309. |
| 8 | Next drill dates: March 6-7 Home Station. April drill is 2-4 (MUTA 6) at Camp Roberts. Mark your calendars. |
| 9 | Wanted: Co. Safety NCO, applicant must be willing to attend a 2 wk Safety sch., career enhancer & ASI |
| 10 | Annual Training Dates: 24 April to 8 May @ CR. Mark your calendars! |

After 37 years of service, MSG Barry Bradfield is retiring.
Retirement Party Feb 21 1800hrs
Navy Golf Course
5660 Oranewood Ave, Cypress
\$25 per person, RSVP by Feb 14
Call SSG Jason White (562) 795-2016
Or SGT Jose Sandoval (562) 795-2016
during working hours 0700-1515hrs M-F

"Buenoooo" B Company, another month has passed and I'm ready for some good flight training. The January battle drill consisted of unaided and NVG sling load training. We need more participation on these battle drills so we can do collective training. Anyway, this month we're going to lovely Camp Roberts for 9mm/M16 qualifications. We should be able to get some flight training following our weapons qualification. Here is a draft of the crews for Friday's flight to Camp Roberts.

Feb 6 Flight Crews

Matthews, Crowley, Pruitt, Rodgers
McRoberts, Solee, Elwell, Thurber
Moya, Sheets, Ratkovich, Scott
Heinicke, Taylor, Smith, Shaw
Trautwein, Moorehead, Roberts, Ziegler

Added at dark night for NVG flight

Malarky, Stein, CE's should be Co. A?

PAX: Cabrera, Degonia, Betz, Anderson,
Van Dyke

Day flight departure: 1600
NVG flight departure: 1700

Crews are subject to change, but this is the plan. Vehicle drivers will be SFC Velasquez and SGT Marquez. Back-up driver will be SGT Nobriga.

Also on the horizon is NTC. It is voluntary, but it should be some good desert training. Major Malarky has **CONFIRMED** that we will be staying in barracks. This will be a great training opportunity and also a chance to get some easy flight time for our APART requirements.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at drill and having a great training weekend.
CPT J. Crowley

First Sergeant's Corner

Guard soldiers are being activated lately on short notice and scurrying to tie up loose ends. For example, a NCO and long time friend of mine from A co. 640th received a phone call on Jan 9 to report to a particular building on Jan 10 on a drill weekend. By Sunday he was at the DISCOM in Long Beach being briefed that he was being activated based on his 88M MOS for 18 months. With no notice, he was directed to get on a bus for Camp Roberts for further in processing. He didn't go until the following day and spent three days processing at Camp Roberts. He said there was two-contracted dentist on site yanking soldier's bad teeth. When it time was to come back his Co. Commander was gracious enough to fly up there in a UH-60 and bring him home. So, basically this soldier had 6 days to get his personal matters ready to include getting military dependant ID's for his wife and kids before his departure. I said good-bye to him on Jan 22 at the Bell Armory. There were 38 other soldiers there destined for Fort Eustis for two months and I presume Iraq thereafter. 15 of the soldiers in the departing formation didn't even have their SRP's? Hopefully they'll show up somewhere along the mobilization process? I was disappointed for the soldiers and families not having the proper send off as I've seen elsewhere. Another example, the weekend of Jan 24, I stopped at a yard sale right outside the JFTB gate and found out the seller was the XO of the C-12 Army Reserve unit. He is being deployed for a year to Iraq and wanted to minimize his storage cost before leaving. I have several soldier friends in this unit as well. With reality TV shows being popular these days, having one just for soldiers in the process of being deployed and in theater would be an interesting show.

We need to look at our own lives and ask ourselves what if this happened to me? Is my family prepared on such short notice? How's my SRP looking? Does my family have their ID's? There are many questions to be answered. Transportation and aviation are precious commodities and are always in demand. In a January edition of the Army Times, there's an article on advice from soldiers in Iraq. Here's a checklist from page 16 of the article:

Personal: Complete and correct Form DD93 with next of kin notification information and make sure you have a will and have made your funeral wishes known

Finances: Credit card and bill payments, banking, living expenses, access to paycheck information

Insurance: Life, homeowner, rental, health

Career: Update personnel records so that you are not left out of promotion opportunities while deployed

Legal: Power of attorney

Housing: Lease renewal, storage, maintenance, utilities

Civic: Absentee ballot

There's a new version of the Family Readiness Book out there that every soldier should have at home and be familiar with.

On another note, I'm emphasizing the need to enhance our public speaking and presentation skills among the Co. NCO Corps. Therefore, I'm conveying this down through Platoon Sergeants to get every soldier involved with CTT, NCODP, and RL Progression tasks. No one is exempt from this self-improvement opportunity. As NCO's and Officers, we can never get enough of this in your military careers.

Lastly, I wanted to express my thanks to SFC Linture for his many contributions to Co. B over the years. He has been with the unit from the E Co. days and there are many years of experience that he will take with himself. As committed soldiers, movement leads to growth. His leadership has left a legacy among his soldiers, as well as me, and in his replacement SSG (P) Elwell. We wish him well with A co. 640th DASB and all his endeavors.

Soldier Readiness

CTT: Class make ups are due

APFT: Pruitt, Shaw, Solee, Taylor, Stever not completed?

NCOES: PSG's have turned in their TY05 recommendations. Any TY04 class requests need to be brought to the 1SG's attention immediately for tracking.

NCOER's: We're looking good for completing 2003 with exception to one more added at dark night. E-5's rough drafts are due 5/3/04 via fax (562) 465-7666 or

hard copy to the 1SG for review. Final is due with all signatures on 6/1/04

DRIVERS: SGT Ziegler will be passing out military licenses this drill. Keep them in your possession at all times. Formation spot checks will be random

NCODP: SFC Velasquez will be teaching on LOD's. This is an important class for your NCO career of knowing the Line of Duty process when an investigation is done on a soldier injured during duty. Don't miss it!

Additional Duties: Time restrictions have prevented the reassignments of additional duties. Hopefully this Feb drill weekend we can give soldiers an opportunity to volunteer before their assigned accordingly.

Platoon Sergeant's Comments

SFC Linture: would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all your support over the years. It was a privilege to serve with you all. It was an extremely difficult decision for me to leave B Co. and took many hours of discussion with my wife before deciding. With many demands of my growing family and the commitment I have made to civilian education, I felt that this would be best in the long run. I wish you all the best and if anyone ever needs any assistance with anything, feel free to give me a call. Just to let all the pilots know, I will still be giving you all a hard time on the flight line if you mess any of the aircraft up and you never know, I may be back one day.

SFC Bary Linture

SSG (P) Elwell: First, I would like to take this opportunity to **thank** SFC. Linture and wish him the best with his new assignment. He will bring a great deal of Leadership, Experience, and Knowledge to Aco 640th. **WE WILL ALL MISS YOU!**

In the Interim, as the acting PSG and with the support of the soldiers, I will maintain the same

standards that were set by our outgoing PSG. We will work together to further develop and enhance the existing policies and standards.

With these changes in hand, we will move forward. Concentrating towards planning our next drill, as it stands February drill will be the following:

1. MUTA 6
2. Flights to Camp Roberts
3. Weapons Qual
4. Possible Progression Flights

More to follow as updates come in!

SFC Velasquez: WELCOME 2ND PLT. TO ANOTHER FINE DRILL WEEKEND!!!! WE'RE GOING TO CAMP BOB, SO DRESS WARM IT'S A LITTLE CHILLY UP THERE. SAT. WE SHOULD HAVE SOME TIME TO DO CTT, NCODP, AND OTHER CLASSES, SO COME PREPARED. I WOULD LIKE TO COVER AS MANY CTT CLASSES AS POSSIBLE. SO IF YOU NEED TRAINING AIDS, OR ANY MATERIALS FOR YOUR CLASS, FEEL FREE TO CALL ME AT WORK (562-795-2022). APFT'S YOU KNOW WHO YOU. IF TIME PERMITS.

Reminder from Co. SI

RL Progression- It's a new year and its time for everyone who is not RL1 Night Goggle to start their progression. I really need everyone's participation on this one to get up to RL1 NG. After it is done we can relax and maintain currencies. If you are in your APART period, which everyone should know their period, contact myself or SSG Elwell for your APART ride. Thanks again to everyone for your participation.

A reminder from the Commander and 2LT Garcia

Here is the link for the Defensive Driving course that everyone needs to finish. I did not find it on the Battalion Website so I do not know if the soldiers have it. <http://www.safetyserve.com/arnq> and the password is CA9101. From there you have to sign in with your personal information, unit code and unit address. This needs to be done by the March drill.